

## Coffman Urges Action on China's Illegal Trade Practices

**(WASHINGTON)** – Congressman Mike Coffman (R-CO) again called on U.S. trade representatives to file an official complaint against China's rare earth trade policies with the World Trade Organization (WTO) after a panel of judges for the WTO today announced that China's policies limiting exports of nine raw materials violate international trade rules.

"Today's ruling shows without a doubt that Chinese government officials flout global trade laws to give their country an unfair competitive advantage," Coffman said. "It's obvious that China is engaging in these same practices with regards to rare earth metals and I will continue to pressure U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk to file a complaint with the WTO."

The ruling today was a response to a complaint filed in 2009 by the U.S., Mexico, and the European Union against China's export restrictions on raw materials vital for making steel and aluminum.

In March, Coffman sent a [bipartisan joint letter](#) to U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk's office demanding he file a similar complaint with the World Trade Organization against China's unfair trade policy that limits exports of rare earth elements. Rare earth metals are 17 chemical elements that are used in many advanced technologies, from smart phones to precision guided munitions to components necessary for the production of renewable energies. China currently controls nearly 97 percent of the world's supply of rare earth elements and Chinese officials have cut exports of rare earth metals by 40 percent yearly since 2009.

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